

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1           1. A method for making data derived from a video signal accessible, comprising:  
2           receiving data derived from a vertical blanking interval of a video signal;  
3           storing the data received on a storage medium for retrieval based on a subsequently  
4           received request; and  
5           indexing the stored data for retrieval by an electronic programming guide.
- 1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein the storing of the data makes the data accessible  
2           to an application program interface.
- 1           3. The method of claim 1, wherein the storage medium is a disk drive such that the  
2           storing includes storing the data on the disk drive.
- 1           4. The method of claim 1, wherein the video signal is a cable broadcasted video  
2           signal such that receiving the data includes receiving data derived from the vertical blanking  
3           interval of the cable broadcasted video signal.
- 1           5. The method of claim 1, wherein the video signal is a telestial broadcasted video  
2           signal such that receiving the data includes receiving data derived from the vertical blanking  
3           interval of the telestial broadcasted video signal.
- 1           6. The method of claim 1, wherein the video signal is a satellite broadcasted video  
2           signal such that receiving the data includes receiving data derived from the vertical blanking  
3           interval of the satellite broadcasted video signal.
- 1           7. The method of claim 1, further comprising deriving the data by parsing data  
2           received from the vertical blanking interval of the video signal.
- 1           8. A computer program capable of generating digital data representing information  
2           communicated in a vertical blanking interval of a video signal, the computer program  
3           comprising:

4 a receiving code segment that receives data representing information communicated  
5 in a vertical blanking interval of a video signal;

6 a generating code segment that generates digital data based on the data using a  
7 predetermined algorithm; and

8 a storing code segment that stores the generated data on a storage medium.

1 9. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the data includes non-video  
2 information and the receiving code segment includes a code segment that receives data  
3 representing non-video information.

1 10. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the video signal is a cable  
2 broadcasted video signal such that the receiving code segment includes a code segment that  
3 receives data communicated with the cable broadcasted video signal.

1 11. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the video signal is a satellite  
2 broadcasted video signal such that the receiving code segment includes a code segment that  
3 receives data communicated with the satellite broadcasted video signal.

1 12. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the video signal is a telestial  
2 broadcasted video signal such that the receiving code segment includes a code segment that  
3 receives data communicated with the telestial broadcasted video signal.

1 13. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the receiving code segment includes a  
2 code segment that receives data representing the information communicated with the video  
3 signal from among a vertical blanking interval of the video signal.

1 14. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the computer program is an  
2 embedded software application.

1 15. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the generating code segment includes  
2 a code segment for converting the data into a format that is used to generate an electronic  
3 programming guide.

1 16. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the digital data includes a binary data  
2 string such that the generating code segment includes a code segment for converting the data  
3 into the binary data string.

1 17. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the receiving code segment includes:  
2 a sampling code segment that periodically samples at least a portion of the video  
3 signal containing the information,  
4 a code segment that generates a numeric representation of the information including  
5 an array of values based on samples from the sampling code segment, and  
6 a code segment that receives the array as at least a portion of the data.

1 18. The computer program of claim 17, wherein the generating code segment  
2 includes a converting code segment that converts values from within the array of values to at  
3 least one binary character string.

1 19. The computer program of claim 18, wherein the converting code segment  
2 includes:  
3 an averaging code segment that computes an average of several of the array values;  
4 a biasing code segment that biases the average to establish a cutoff value; and  
5 a classifying code segment that classifies the information as electronic programming  
6 guide data based on whether the average exceeds the cutoff value.

1 20. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the averaging code segment includes  
2 a moving averaging code segment that compute a moving average based on the values.

1 21. The computer program of claim 19, wherein the classifying code segment  
2 classifies the information as a clock run in when the average exceeds the cutoff value.

1 22. The computer program of claim 17, wherein the array of values represent at least  
2 color information and control information.

1           23. A method of generating an electronic programming guide, comprising:  
2           receiving data derived from a vertical blanking interval of a video signal;  
3           parsing data from within the vertical blanking interval of the video signal using a  
4 computer software program; and  
5           generating an electronic programming guide based on the parsed data.

1           24. The method of claim 23, wherein generating the electronic programming guide  
2 comprises:

3           generating an electronic programming guide that includes at least one of a channel  
4 identifier, a local tune number, a channel name, a broadcasting day and date, a broadcasting  
5 start and end time, a program title, a program duration, a program category and index, one or  
6 more subcategories and indexes, a television rating (e.g., TVY\_LV, TVPG), a program  
7 description, and indicators indicating whether the program is re-broadcasted, live, closed  
8 captioned, in stereo, and pay per view.

1           25. The method of claim 24, wherein generating the electronic programming guide  
2 comprises generating an electronic programming guide that is driven by a data management  
3 code segment having at least one application program interface capable of supporting a user  
4 interface, data loading and manipulation, and data mapping.